In the Claims:

Claims 1-29 (canceled)

30. (currently amended) A method of conveying an email message including an address field containing a descriptor of an intended recipient of the email message, the descriptor being different from an email account name of the intended recipient, the method comprising:

sending a database query to a database <u>containing a plurality</u> of identifying elements associated with the intended recipient and email addresses to search for the email address associated with the descriptor, wherein said descriptor <u>comprises at least one</u> ~~is a combination of one or more~~ of the identifying elements; and

transmitting said email message to said email address found during said search of the email addresses if a unique email address is located.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said descriptor includes one or more identifying elements selected from a list including a telephone number associated with said intended recipient, a business name associated with said intended recipient, a personal name associated with said intended recipient, and a part of a street address associated with said intended recipient.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said descriptor includes a concatenation of a name and city.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said descriptor includes a concatenation of name and telephone number.

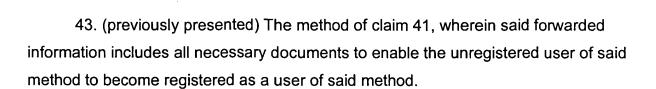34. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising:

generating and conveying a return email notification to the sender of said email message.

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35. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said return email notification reports the status of said database search and whether or not said email message has been received.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein said return email notification also reports when said email message has been received.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said return email notification includes notification of a failure to match said descriptor with an email address located within said database.

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein said return email notification includes notification of a failure to match said descriptor with an email address located within said database.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein especially formatted email messages are interpreted as database queries, and not as email messages to be readdressed and forwarded.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said database comprises fields for email addresses, and separate fields for each of given name, surname, telephone number, name of business and/or address; at least one of the separate fields being completed for each email address.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising:

determining from said database if either of the sender or recipient are not a registered user of said method; and

forwarding to any such unregistered user information on said method and its advantages and/or a request to register.

42. (previously amended) The method of claim 41, further comprising forwarding an advice to the sender or recipient of said email message who is a registered user of said method that the information has been forwarded to the unregistered user of said method.

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43. (previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein said forwarded information includes all necessary documents to enable the unregistered user of said method to become registered as a user of said method.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said forwarded information includes all necessary documents to enable the unregistered user of said method to become registered as a user of said method.

45. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein when the unregistered user of said method is registered as a user of said method, a search is conducted to determine if any messages are awaiting forwarding to the user and, if so, to forward to the user any such messages.

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein when a further advice is sent to the registered user of said method advising the registered user of said method that the unregistered user of said method has become registered onto said method.

47. (currently amended) A method for handling undeliverable electronic mail, comprising:

receiving an email message including an invalid destination address that includes a descriptor;

sending a database query to a database, which includes a plurality of identifying elements, to search for records partially or completely matching parts of said invalid destination address; and

forwarding said email message to a valid unique email address retrieved from said database according to the result of said search for records.

48. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein said descriptor is selected from a list including a telephone number associated with said intended recipient, a business name associated with said intended recipient, a personal name associated with said intended recipient, and a part of a street address associated with said intended recipient.

49. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein said descriptor includes a concatenation of a name and city.

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein said descriptor includes a concatenation of name and telephone number.

51. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising:
generating and conveying a return email notification to the sender of said email message.

52. (previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein said return email notification reports the status of said database search and whether or not the email message has been received.

53. (previously presented) The method of claim 52, wherein said return email notification also reports when said email message has been received.

54. (previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein said return email notification includes notification of failure to match said descriptor with an email address located within said database.

55. (previously presented) The method of claim 52, wherein said return email notification includes notification of failure to match said descriptor with an email address located within said database.

56. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein especially formatted email messages are interpreted as database queries, and not as email messages to be readdressed and forwarded.

57. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein said database comprises fields for email addresses, and separate fields for each of given name, surname, telephone number, name of business and/or address; at least one of the separate fields being completed for each email address.

58. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising:

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determining from the database if either of the sender or recipient are not a registered user of said method; and

forwarding to any such unregistered user information on said method and its advantages and/or a request to register onto said method.

59. (previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein an advice is forwarded to the sender or recipient who is a registered user of said method that the information has been forwarded to the unregistered user of said method.

60. (previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein said forwarded information includes all necessary documents to enable the unregistered user to become registered as a user of said method.

61. (previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein said forwarded information includes all necessary documents to enable the unregistered user to become registered as a user of said method.

62. (previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein when the unregistered user is registered as a user of said method, a search is conducted to determine if any messages are awaiting forwarding to the user of said method and, if so, to forward to the user any such messages.

63. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein when a further advice is sent to the registered user of said method advising the registered user that the unregistered user has become registered onto said method.

64. (currently amended) A method of conveying an email message comprising:

receiving an email message forwarded by a sender, said email message including an invalid destination address that includes a descriptor;

sending a database query to a database, which includes a plurality of identifying elements, to search for records partially or completely matching parts of said invalid destination address; and

sending a notification message to the sender of said email message, said notification message advising the sender of the results of said database search.

65. (previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein said descriptor is selected from a list including a telephone number associated with said intended recipient, a business name associated with said intended recipient, a personal name associated with said intended recipient, and a part of a street address associated with said intended recipient.

66. (previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein said descriptor includes a concatenation of a name and city.

67. (previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein said descriptor includes a concatenation of name and telephone number.

68. (previously presented) The method of claim 64, further comprising:
    generating and conveying a return email notification to the sender of the email message.

69. (previously presented) The method of claim 68, wherein said return email notification reports the status of said database search and whether or not the email message has been received.

70. (previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein said return email notification also reports when said email message has been received.

71. (previously presented) The method of claim 68, wherein said return email notification includes notification of failure to match said descriptor with a record located within said database.

72. (previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein said return email notification includes notification of failure to match said descriptor with a record located within said database.

73. (previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein especially formatted email messages are interpreted as database queries, and not as email messages to be readdressed and forwarded.

74. (previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein said database comprises fields for email addresses, and separate fields for each of given name, surname, telephone number, name of business and/or address; at least one of the separate fields being completed for each email address.

75. (previously presented) The method of claim 64, further comprising:
determining from the database if either of the sender or recipient are not a registered user of said method; and
forwarding to any such unregistered user of said method information on said method and its advantages and/or a request to register onto said method.

76. (previously presented) The method of claim 75, wherein an advice is forwarded to the sender or recipient who is a registered user of said method that the information has been forwarded to the unregistered user of said method.

77. (previously presented) The method of claim 75, wherein said forwarded information includes all necessary documents to enable the unregistered user of said method to become registered as a user of said method.

78. (previously presented) The method of claim 76, wherein said forwarded information includes all necessary documents to enable the unregistered user of said method to become registered as a user of said method.

79. (previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein when the unregistered user of said method is registered as a user of said method, a search is conducted to determine if any messages are awaiting forwarding to the user and, if so, to forward to the user any such messages.

80. (previously presented) The method of claim 79, wherein when a further advice is sent to the registered user of said method advising the registered user that the unregistered user has become registered onto said method.

81. (currently amended) A method of conveying an email message comprising:

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receiving an email message from its sender, said email message including an address field containing a descriptor of the intended recipient of said email message and which is different from an email account name of said intended recipient, the descriptor being selected from a plurality ~~a combination~~ of ~~one or more~~ identifying elements associated with the intended recipient;

sending a database query to a database, which contains a plurality of ~~the one or more~~ identifying elements for a plurality of recipients and email addresses to locate a unique email address associated with said descriptor; and

forwarding the message to the email address yielded by the database.

82. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 81, wherein the database includes fields corresponding to commonly used identifiers such as a telephone number, business name, street address, personal name, alias, or nickname.

83. (previously presented) The method of claim 81, wherein said descriptor is selected from a list including a telephone number associated with said intended recipient, a business name associated with said intended recipient, a personal name associated with said intended recipient, and a part of a street address associated with said intended recipient.

84. (previously presented) The method of claim 81, wherein said descriptor includes a concatenation of a name and city.

85. (previously presented) The method of claim 81, wherein said descriptor includes a concatenation of name and telephone number.

86. (previously presented) The method of claim 81, further comprising:

generating and conveying a return email notification to the sender of the email message.

87. (previously presented) The method of claim 86, wherein said return email notification reports the status of said database search and whether or not the email message has been received.

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88. (previously presented) The method of claim 87, wherein said return email notification also reports when said email message has been received.

89. (previously presented) The method of claim 86, wherein said return email notification includes notification of failure to match said descriptor with an email address located within said database.

90. (previously presented) The method of claim 87, wherein said return email notification includes notification of failure to match said descriptor with an email address located within said database.

91. (previously presented) The method of claim 81, wherein especially formatted email messages are interpreted as database queries, and not as email messages to be readdressed and forwarded.

92. (previously presented) The method of claim 81, wherein said database comprises fields for email addresses, and separate fields for each of given name, surname, telephone number, name of business and/or address; at least one of the separate fields being completed for each email address.

93. (previously presented) The method of claim 81, further comprising:

determining from the database if either of the sender or recipient are not a registered user of said method; and

forwarding to any such unregistered user of said method information on said method and its advantages and/or a request to register onto said method.

94. (previously presented) The method of claim 93, wherein an advice is forwarded to the sender or recipient who is a registered user of said method that the information has been forwarded to the unregistered user of said method.

95. (previously presented) The method of claim 93, wherein said forwarded information includes all necessary documents to enable the unregistered user of said method to become registered as a user of said method.

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96. (previously presented) The method of claim 94, wherein said forwarded information includes all necessary documents to enable the unregistered user of said method to become registered as a user of said method.

97. (previously presented) The method of claim 95, wherein when the unregistered user of said method is registered as a user of said method, a search is conducted to determine if any messages are awaiting forwarding to the user and, if so, to forward to the user any such messages.

98. (previously presented) The method of claim 97, wherein when a further advice is sent to the registered user of said method advising the registered user that the unregistered user has become registered onto said method.

99. (currently amended) A method of determining an email address comprising:

maintaining a database where email addresses are linked with a plurality of identifying elements relevant for a person at each email address so that a user can provide one or more of the identifying elements;

wherein upon recognition by a server that information given in an address field of the email address is insufficient or not in the correct form for delivery; and

a search is conducted of the database to determine a relevant email address, the plurality of identifying elements including at least one of a given name, surname, address, name of business, and/or telephone number.

100. (previously presented) The method of claim 99, wherein the database is at said server.

101. (previously presented) The method of claim 99, wherein the database is separate from said server.

102. (previously presented) The method of claim 99, wherein said correct or complete email address is passed from the database back to the server to enable it to send said necessary message.

103. (previously presented) The method of claim 99, wherein said database comprises fields for email addresses, and separate fields for each of given name, surname, telephone number, name of business and/or address; at least one of the separate fields being completed for each email address.

104. (previously presented) The method of claim 99, further comprising:

determining from the database if either of the sender or recipient are not a registered user of said method; and

forwarding to any such unregistered user information on said method and its advantages and/or a request to register onto said method.

105. (previously presented) The method of claim 104, wherein an advice is forwarded to the sender or recipient who is a registered user of said method that said forwarded information has been forwarded to the unregistered user of said method.

106. (previously presented) The method of claim 104, wherein said forwarded information includes all necessary documents to enable the unregistered user of said method to become registered as a user of said method.

107. (previously presented) The method of claim 105, wherein said forwarded information includes all necessary documents to enable the unregistered user of said method to become registered as a user of said method.

108. (previously presented) The method of claim 106, wherein when the unregistered user of said method is registered as a user of said method, a search is conducted to determine if any messages are awaiting forwarding to the user and, if so, to forward to the user any such messages.

109. (previously presented) The method of claim 108, wherein when a further advice is sent to the registered user of said method advising the registered user that the unregistered user of said method has become registered onto said method.

110. (previously presented) A method to enable users of computer based telecommunication systems to independently locate an address of a user, the address system comprising:

providing an email address for an email message sent by a computer based telecommunications system; and

placing numeric characters of a number of a telecommunications device of the user within at least one portion of said email address, wherein the at least one portion being that portion which identifies the user.

111. (previously presented) The method of claim 110, wherein the number of the telecommunications device includes at least one of the area code within the user's country; the country code of the user's country; or the personal access number within the user's country.

112. (previously presented) The method of claim 110, wherein said computer based telecommunication system is the internet.

113. (previously presented) The method of claim 110, wherein said telecommunications device is selected from a list including a telephone, facsimile, pager, mobile telephone and satellite connected technology.

114. (previously presented) The method of claim 110, wherein at least one portion of said email address is alpha numeric.

115. (previously presented) The method of claim 114, wherein the alpha includes at least a part of a name of the user.

116. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the email message is transmitted where a prescribed threshold of a match between the descriptor of said email message and descriptors with said database is exceeded.

117. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the email message is forwarded if a prescribed threshold of a match between said invalid destination address and said valid email address is exceeded.